

In the Claims:

Please substitute the following Claim 1 (Twice Amended) and Claims 27, 47, 55, and 58 (Amended) for the pending Claim 1 (Amended) and Claims 27, 47, 55, and 58.

B1
Sub C1
1. (Twice Amended) Activated carbon coated with a water-insoluble coating material that masks a color of the activated carbon, the coating material including a masking agent and a water-insoluble binding agent that binds the masking agent to the activated carbon, the coating material having an add-on level relative to the uncoated activated carbon of at least 5%, and the coated activated carbon having a Relative Adsorption Efficiency with respect to at least one odoriferous agent of at least 30%, the odoriferous agent being selected from the group comprising ammonia, triethylamine, trimethylamine, dimethyldisulphide, and isovaleric acid.

B2
27. (Amended) Coated activated carbon comprising activated carbon coated with a colored coating material, the colored coating material including a colored masking agent and a water-insoluble binding agent that binds the colored masking agent to the activated carbon, the coated activated carbon having a

[Serial No.: 09/738,103

Docket No.: K-C 16,029]

B2
HunterLab L value of at least 40 and an absolute "a" value or absolute "b" value greater than 10.

✓
Please cancel Claim 28.

B3
47. (Amended) Coated activated carbon coated with a coating material comprising a water-insoluble elastomeric binding agent, the coated activated carbon having a Relative Efficiency for Adsorption of Ammonia of at least 30%.

B4
55. (Amended) Activated carbon particles coated with a colored coating material, the colored coating agent comprising a deformable water-insoluble binding agent having a Shore A hardness of less than 70 and having an absolute HunterLab "a" value or absolute HunterLab "b" value greater than 10.

B5
58. (Amended) An activated carbon material coated with a coating material comprising a water insoluble binding agent and a pigment effective to mask a color of the activated carbon, wherein the color of the activated carbon material is neither white, gray, nor black.

Please add the following new claims.

80. (New) A composition for removal of an odoriferous agent, comprising:

a quantity of activated carbon;

a water-insoluble coating material on a surface of the activated carbon effective to mask a color of the activated carbon,

the water-insoluble coating material including at least one of an opaque masking agent and a colored masking agent and a water-insoluble binding agent that binds the masking agent to the surface of the activated carbon;

wherein the composition has a Relative Adsorption Efficiency with respect to at least one odoriferous agent of at least 30%, the odoriferous agent being selected from a group comprising ammonia, triethylamine, trimethylamine, dimethyldisulphide, and isovaleric acid.

81. (New) The composition of Claim 80, wherein the binding agent includes an elastomer.

82. (New) The composition of Claim 80, wherein the binding agent includes a polymer selected from a group consisting of latex, a silicone compound, and combinations thereof.

83. (New) The composition of Claim 80, wherein the coating material includes a blowing agent.

84. (New) The composition of Claim 80, wherein the coating material is porous.

No additional fee is required for this Amendment as the number of independent claims and the total number of claims is less than originally filed.

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this Patent Application, particularly in view of the above Amendment and the following remarks.

Applicants' invention relates to activated carbon that is coated with a coating material to mask the dark color of the activated carbon. The coating material can include a masking agent, which can be an opaque material or a pigment, and a